

Shelf Policy Advisory Committee, and on the Aquaculture Assessment panel for the Office of Technology Assessment. In addition, Mr. Ortman is a founding board member of the Puget Sound Alliance and of Earth Share of Washington.

David's work has earned him awards from the Seattle and Black Hills Audubon Societies. The Young Alumnus Award from Bethel College, Kansas, and the national Chervon Conservation Award are among other acknowledgments of his commitment to the environment.

Mr. Ortman plans to continue this work as director of Wise Use Movement. He will lead this organization's campaign to preserve and protect wise use of public lands and resources, to educate the public, and to promote environmentally sound regulation of private lands and activities.

Mr. Speaker, our natural habitat is healthier and the diversity of our ecosystems more sustainable thanks to the work of David E. Ortman, a true world citizen. I thank him for his many years of hard work, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES AND MARGO BITTNER

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James and Margo Bittner, of Barker, NY, for being chosen as Outstanding Young Farmers for the years 1997–98 by the New York State Junior Chamber of Commerce.

James Bittner is president of Niagara County Farm Bureau and managing partner of Singer Farms. Jim and his wife, Margo, operate a 450 acre farm that produces apples, sweet and tart cherries, peaches and pears. The Bittners are long-time residents of western New York and have made significant contributions on behalf of farmers in Niagara County and the entire community.

I would like to share with my colleagues a resolution passed by the Niagara County Legislature commending the Bittners for their hard work and congratulating them for their achievement:

Whereas, agriculture and farming are the County of Niagara's leading industry, and

Whereas, the Niagara County Legislature knows the importance that agriculture plays in the economy of Niagara County, and

Whereas, each year the New York State Junior Chamber of Commerce awards excellence to individuals who display outstanding achievement in farming, and

Whereas, James and Margo Bittner of Barker, New York, operate a farm which totals over 450 acres of land, with 250 acres of apples, 50 acres of sweet cherries, 30 acres of tart cherries and 20 acres of peaches and pears, and

Whereas, the New York State Junior Chamber of Commerce named the Bittner's Outstanding Young Farmers 1997–1998 for New York State on November 16, 1996, now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Niagara County Legislature does hereby commend James and Margo Bittner on a "job well done" and offer sincere congratulations on being awarded such a prestigious title.

I am pleased to join the Niagara County Legislature in commending and congratulating

James and Margo Bittner for this well-deserved recognition.

A TRIBUTE TO JOYCE GAMBRELL DRAYTON

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joyce Gambrell Drayton in honor of her lifelong dedication to the art of sacred choral music. Ms. Drayton has lived in Philadelphia all her life, and has enriched our community with her musical talents since her early days playing organ for the Nazarene Baptist Church School Choir.

Ms. Drayton has served over 37 years in the Nazarene Baptist Church, where she is the organist for the senior choir, the Davis Gospel Chorus, and the women's chorus. In addition, Ms. Drayton is the organist and director of the Hardeman Gospel Chorus of the Hickman Temple AME Church. In 1987, Ms. Drayton added to her accomplishments when she was appointed director of the City Wide Revival Choir.

Ms. Drayton's latest project is the publishing of "Distinguished Church Musicians in the United States," a book she hopes will bring recognition to her craft and attract more young people into the field of church music.

Ms. Drayton was recently honored at a dinner reception at the Nazarene Baptist Church in Nicetown, Philadelphia. I would like to take this opportunity, and I hope my colleagues will join me, Mr. Speaker, in recognizing Ms. Drayton for her contributions to Philadelphia's musical tradition and commend her for her dedication to her craft.

HON. TED WEDEMEYER, JR., NAMED AS 1997 PAL JOEY RECIPIENT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Honorable Ted Wedemeyer on being named the 1997 Pal Joey Award recipient by the St. Joseph's Foundation, Inc., of Milwaukee, WI.

In honoring Ted, the St. Joseph's Foundation is recognizing a man who has done so much for the community he loves. His commitment to justice is evident in his distinguished career on the circuit court and currently as presiding judge of the First District Court of Appeals, and in his volunteerism with several community organizations, including the St. Joseph's Foundation.

Ted Wedemeyer has shown his dedication to the Milwaukee area throughout his entire life. Over the years he has been committed to improving the lives of many of Milwaukee's citizens through his involvement with organizations including the Wisconsin Children's Service Society, Wisconsin Easter Seals, and the American Legion, just to name a few. His many years of loyal service to the St. Joseph's Foundation demonstrate his desire to make

Milwaukee an even better place for all of its citizens. For this reason, the St. Joseph's Foundation wishes to honor Ted by awarding him with the 1997 Pal Joey Award.

Ted Wedemeyer has clearly set an example for all of us to follow. Congratulations, Ted, this is an honor that is well deserved.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIPARTISAN LINE-ITEM VETO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am joined today by my colleague from California, Representative GARY CONDIT, in proudly introducing a bipartisan resolution to amend the Constitution to provide the President of the United States with line-item veto authority.

On April 10, the U.S. District Court ruled unconstitutional the Line Item Veto Act of 1996 which was a statutory version of this much needed authority to rein-in Federal spending. On the eve of the deadline for hard-working folks to file their Federal income taxes, this court's ruling denied American taxpayers an important protection against wasteful spending. It is time to put to rest the constitutional questions surrounding the line-item veto by passing the constitutional amendment we are introducing today to give the President the explicit authority to zero-out special interest goodies tucked away in the fine print of large spending bills.

Forty-three of our Nation's governors have a line-item veto at their disposal, and it works. Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson used the line-item veto hundreds of times to save the taxpayers of Wisconsin close to \$3 billion. In Massachusetts, Governor William Weld used the line-item veto to help eliminate an \$850 million deficit in his first month in office and resolve a \$1.8 billion structural deficit within the first 6 months of his term. While Governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton repeatedly balanced his State's budget, and an important tool that helped him do so was the line-item veto. The evidence is clear and convincing that the line-item veto saves taxpayers money, and the Congress should answer the 14-year-old call issued by President Reagan to pass the line-item veto amendment.

Mr. Speaker, we tried the legal approach and a Federal court said it will not work. We have yet to hear from the Supreme Court, but the prospects look bleak. So, here we are at the end of tax season and the American public is denied line-item veto protection by a Federal court. We must put an end to the constitutional debate by providing the President the explicit authority of the line-item veto. What would have been good for Presidents Reagan and Bush would be good for President Clinton and every future American President. The line-item veto amendment we are introducing today will guarantee the validity of Harry Truman's adage that "the Buck Stops Here"—right at the President's desk. I urge my colleagues to adopt this most important fiscal tool to ensure that taxpayers never again witness the day when wasteful special interest spending can sneak its way into law.